

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A videoconference system, comprising:
terminals;
multipoint control units, as ~~the~~a superior level for the terminals, for controlling the corresponding terminals to participate in ~~the~~a videoconference;
conference management systems, as ~~the~~a superior level for the multipoint control units, for managing resource allocation of the corresponding multipoint control units, and performing conference dispatching and control for ~~the~~a local conference site; and
conference coordination systems, as ~~the~~a superior level for the conference management systems, for coordinating corresponding conference management systems and ~~the~~a neighboring conference coordination system[[s]] to perform dispatching at a dispatching request, and for controlling for the entire conference at a dispatching request by forwarding conference control data.
2. (Currently Amended) The videoconference system according to claim 1, wherein each conference coordination system comprises:
a system management module, for accomplishing system configuration and operating management of the conference coordination system;
a conference dispatching module, for processing conference dispatching requests from the subordinate conference management systems or from the neighboring conference coordination system[[s]];
a conference control module, for forwarding the conference control data; and
a multipoint communication module, for communicating with the subordinate conference management systems and the neighboring

conference coordination system[[s]] via information containing multipoint communication data in the multipoint communication module.

3. (Currently Amended) The videoconference system according to claim 2, wherein ~~the~~ models between the conference coordination systems and the subordinate conference management systems as well as between the conference coordination systems are based on the International Organization for Standardization 7-layer model for communication, with the International Telecommunications Union transport service ITU-T X.224 below the transport layer.

4. (Currently Amended) The videoconference system according to claim 3, wherein the multipoint communication data in the multipoint communication module comprises a source node ID, a channel ID, a list of destination nodes, an upper layer application data and application data segment mark, and the conference coordination systems implement routing strategy by using the channel ID and the list of destination nodes in the multipoint communication data.

5. (Currently Amended) The videoconference system according to claim 2, wherein the system configuration of each system management module comprises:

the terminals being numbered uniformly;

the conference management system being configured with number segments to determine corresponding terminals; and

the conference coordination systems being configured with the number segments managed by the corresponding conference management systems and number segments managed by the neighboring conference coordination system[[s]], so as to determine a plurality of conference management systems involved in the conference in accordance with the system configuration, split the conference into sub-conferences, and distribute the sub-conferences to each corresponding conference management system.

6. (Original) The videoconference system according to claim 5, wherein during a videoconference, the conference coordination systems determine a master conference management system and a slave conference management system dynamically in accordance with the system configuration and dispatching strategy.

7. (Currently Amended) The videoconference system according to claim 6, wherein one of the subordinate multipoint control units managed by the master conference management system serves as the master multipoint control unit, the other multipoint control units in the master conference management system and ~~the~~ multipoint control units in the slave conference management system serve as slave multipoint control units, and the master conference management system accomplishes cascading among the master and slave multipoint control units.

8. (Currently Amended) The videoconference system according to claim 6, wherein the dispatching strategy of the conference coordination systems is to determine the master conference management system in accordance with the number of terminals managed by the conference management systems and to determine whether to merge the sub-conferences into the master conference management system in accordance with the number of the sub-conferences.

9. (Original) The videoconference system according to claim 2, wherein the conference control data comprises conference state data and conference control commands.

10. (Currently Amended) The videoconference system according to claim 9, wherein the conference state data refers to ~~the~~ data reported by each conference management system to the corresponding conference coordination system and forwarded by the conference coordination

system to other conference management systems during the videoconference, including start/end of conference, entering/leaving of conference site, or change of chairman token.

11. (Original) The videoconference system according to claim 9, wherein the conference control commands comprise prolongation/ending of conference, calling/hanging up/adding/deleting/broadcasting/viewing of conference site, and setting of multi-vision.

12. (Currently Amended) The videoconference system according to claim 1, wherein the dispatching request refers that a subscriber requests for conference dispatching from the conference management system where the account number of ~~the~~ a conference caller is, including start time, duration of the conference and terminals involved in the conference.

13. (Previously Presented) The videoconference system according to claim 1, wherein the conference coordination systems are separated from or embedded in the conference management systems.

14. (Currently Amended) A videoconference system management method, comprising the steps of:

~~the~~ a subscriber requesting for conference dispatching from ~~the~~ a home conference management system;

the home conference management system managing the corresponding local conference site directly at the dispatching request, and transferring the dispatching across conference management systems to ~~the~~ a corresponding conference coordination system; and

~~the conference coordination system dispatching the corresponding master and slave conference management systems at the dispatching request~~ as a superior level for the conference management system, coordinating corresponding conference management systems and a neighboring conference coordination system to perform dispatching at

the dispatching request and controlling the conference by forwarding conference control data.

15. (Currently Amended) The videoconference system management method according to claim 14, wherein the coordinating ~~dispatching~~ step further comprises the steps of:

the conference coordination system determining each terminal's home conference management system;

the conference coordination system splitting the a videoconference into sub-conferences and distributing the sub-conferences to each corresponding conference management system;

the conference coordination system determining a master conference management system and a plurality of slave conference management systems.

16. (Currently Amended) The videoconference system management method according to claim 14, further comprising the following steps before the step of requesting for conference dispatching:

numbering ~~the~~ terminals in the videoconference uniformly; configuring the conference management systems with number segments to determine corresponding terminals;

configuring the conference coordination system[[s]] with the number segments managed by the corresponding conference management systems and number segments managed by the neighboring conference coordination system[[s]], so that the conference coordination system[[s]] can perform dispatching in accordance with the corresponding managed number segments.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) The videoconference system management method according to claim ~~14~~15, further comprising the following steps after the coordinating ~~dispatching~~ step:

the master and slave conference management systems feeding ~~the~~ a ~~coordinating dispatching~~ result back to the corresponding conference coordination systems;

the conference coordination system feeding ~~the~~ a final ~~coordinating dispatching~~ result back to the home conference management system ~~that sent~~ sending the dispatching request.

19. (Currently Amended) The videoconference system management method according to claim 14, wherein the home conference coordination system refers to ~~the~~ a conference management system where the account number of ~~the~~ a videoconference caller is.

20. (Currently Amended) The videoconference system management method according to claim 14, wherein ~~during the conference dispatching, the conference coordination systems perform control of the conference in accordance with the~~ the conference control data, ~~which~~ comprises conference state data and conference control commands, wherein the conference state data refers to ~~the~~ data reported by each conference management system to the corresponding conference coordination system and forwarded by the conference coordination system to other conference management systems during the videoconference, including start/end of conference, entering/leaving of conference site, or change of chairman token, and the conference control commands comprise prolongation/ending of conference, calling/hanging up/adding/deleting/broadcasting/viewing of conference site, and setting of multi-vision.

21. (Currently Amended) The videoconference system management method according to claim ~~14~~ 15, wherein the conference coordination systems perform conference dispatching with reference to ~~the~~ a dispatching strategy which is to determine the master conference management system in accordance with the number of terminals managed by each conference management system and determine whether to merge the sub-conferences

into the master conference management system in accordance with the number of the sub-conferences.

22. (Currently Amended) The videoconference system management method according to claim 14, wherein the dispatching request refers that the subscriber requests for conference dispatching from the conference management system where the account number of ~~the~~ a conference caller is, including start time and duration of the conference and terminals involved in the conference.

23. (Currently Amended) The videoconference system management method according to claim 15, further comprising the following steps before the step of requesting for conference dispatching 1):

 numbering ~~the~~ terminals in the videoconference uniformly;
 configuring the conference management systems with number segments to determine corresponding terminals[[:]]; and
 configuring the conference coordination system[[s]] with the number segments managed by the corresponding conference management systems and number segments managed by the neighboring conference coordination system[[s]], so that the conference coordination system[[s]] can perform dispatching in accordance with the corresponding managed number segments.

24. (New) A videoconference system, comprising:

 terminals;
 multipoint control units, as a superior level for the terminals, for controlling the corresponding terminals to participate in a videoconference;
 conference management systems, as a superior level for the multipoint control units, for managing resource allocation of the corresponding multipoint control units, and performing conference dispatching and control for a local conference site; and

a conference coordination system, as a superior level for the conference management systems, for coordinating corresponding conference management systems to perform dispatching at a dispatching request and for controlling the conference by forwarding conference control data.

25. (New) A videoconference system management method, comprising the steps of:

a subscriber requesting for conference dispatching from a home conference management system;

the home conference management system managing the corresponding local conference site directly at the dispatching request, and transferring the dispatching across conference management systems to a corresponding conference coordination system; and

the conference coordination system, as a superior level for the conference management system, coordinating corresponding conference management systems to perform dispatching at the dispatching request and controlling the conference by forwarding conference control data.